

Johnson, Franklin P.  
[Prof.]

[University of Illinois, Urbana, IL], 1924-1925

Sat 11, 19

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Ch. Wm LVI 2971

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128 Lincoln Hall,

Urbana, Illinois,

October 17, 1924.

Mr. Sidney P. Noy, Secretary,  
The American Numismatic Society,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Noy:

May I ask whether your collection includes many coins of Leo? I have written an article on the coinage of Baalbek, where I consider the possibility of identifying it as Leo; and since he is too early to get in the British Museum Byzantine catalogue, I am reduced to citing sale catalogues for photographs the illustrations of his coins. I am interested especially in coins that show him bearded; and I suppose from the fact that there are none of these in the British museum, that they show a decided minority. If you have any of them, I should be deeply grateful for permission to have made and published photographs of them along with such beardless ones as they may have, though it would hardly be worth while to publish the latter alone. Information on the matter would be highly appreciated.

I hope that you have been well and happy since leaving Hellas. My job here is not in all respects bad. I am supposed to have some sort of special selection to the museum, but I have been too busy to worry about it much. I should be glad to hear from you.

Very sincerely,  
Franklin P. Johnson.

Very truly yours  
Wm G. Illing  
Urbana  
(LL)

Oct. 21, 1924.

Dear Prof. Johnson:-

It was a pleasure to receive your letter of the 17th, and I am responding (in part) immediately, although not so fully as I might wish. Perhaps I can do better a little later.

Your letter came just as I was sending off a communication to the Coin Department of the British Museum, asking for some other casts, and I have appended a request that they include a cast of the solidus showing the bearded Leo I. If you do not need it immediately, they should respond within three or four weeks, and of course it would be more satisfactory to reproduce from their specimen than from an illustration such as the one I enclose.

This enclosure is taken from an auction sale - Hirsch XXI, (Gutekunst et al, May 6, 1912). I am forwarding the card from our file - when you have entirely finished with it, will you please send it back. It may be better than any other you have found, and if you cannot wait for the P. cast, you could get a fairish reproduction from this. The cut in Sabatier, (Pl. VI, 19) is an engraving and therefore undependable. Other illustrations occur in catalogues which are hardly likely to be available to you - P. d'Amecourt, Pl. xxxiii, No. 854; and Consul Weber (Hirsch XXIV), Pl. lvi, 2971. The bearded heads are much less common than the others, but the one of which I send you the illustration sold, along with another solidus for only fifty marks - this of course was a pre-war price.

You ask how I have been since Greece - reasonably happy and pretty busy. I had an appendicitis operation last April, but there were no complications and recovery from that was fairly prompt. Did you hear that Mr. Fiske is to be associates with the Pennsylvania University Museum? Miss Eldredge is teaching in New York this winter. I saw Holland and his wife at the meeting of our Archeological Club in Philadelphia a few days ago. Have you any coins in your Museum at Urbana? Have you seen Saltman's volume on the early Athenian coinage?

Yours very sincerely,

Urbana, Illinois.

128 Lincoln Hall,  
November 6, 1924.

Dear Mr. Noe:

I was glad to get your letter of the 21st, and appreciate very much your kindness in sending the illustration and in trying to get a cast of the bearded Leo. If the cast comes within four weeks from the time you wrote, it will be quite early enough for me, and I should like to use it. In the meantime I shall keep the illustration but shall return it to you without fail when I have use it or decided not to do so.

I did not know any of the bits of news you mention, but am glad to hear them. I thought that Miss Eldredge was out here somewhere. We have quite a number of Roman coins in the museum here, but almost no Greek ones. Hence other inquiries: can you suggest a dealer who sells genuine Greek coins? I once met a Miss Blake, of Cornell, who spoke enthusiastically of metal reproductions of Greek coins; can you tell me where they may be obtained, and whether they are worth while? I suppose Syracusan coins, for example, are rare and expensive; -- decadadrachms I mean; -- and good reproductions might be useful.

No, I have not seen Seltman's new volume. Is it so new that this is excusable? The library here is poor in archaeological books, as is natural; no work in archaeology has hitherto been done here. In periodicals, nevertheless, we are very well off.

Please remember me to any of our common acquaintances whom you see.

Very sincerely yours,

*Franklin P. Johnson.*

*Our  
SPN*

128 Lincoln Hall,  
Urbana, Illinois,  
February 5, 1925.

Dear Mr. Noe:

I return herewith the illustration of a Leo I coin which you sent me. They marked it up a little at the A. J. A. office, but I do not think it is much damaged. I returned the casts some weeks ago; I trust that they arrived all right. I got fair reproductions from both the illustration and from a photograph of the cast, and two others from a catalogue which we had here, so there will be a good quartette of portraits of Leo. I got the proof of the article day before yesterday; I suppose it will appear in the first number of this year.

I am feeling somewhat distressed today: I ordered an amphora described as 6 4 inches high for the museum, and it came only about 4 4. Is it not lamentable? T. P. Johnson.

February 7th, 1925

Professor F. P. Johnson  
University of Illinois  
128 Lincoln Hall  
Urbana, Ill.

Dear Dr. Johnson:

Yours of the fifth with the card received. I also received the casts some time ago. I am glad that the reproductions have come out successfully; I shall look forward to seeing your article.

You are in hard luck with regard to your Amphora; perhaps you will have better results another time.

Under separate cover, I am sending you a copy of a Catalogue of Svoronos' library. It is not confined to numismatic works, and there may be listed a number of things which you will care to have your library order.

The prices of the B.M. Catalogues of Greek coins are rather low; and if they are not already on the shelves of your library, it might be a good time to get them.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary

May 16th, 1925

F. P. Johnson, Esq.  
128 Lincoln Hall  
University of Illinois  
Urbana, Ill.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I received your reprints from the American Journal of Archeology, and enjoyed reading them. It seems to me that you made a pretty strong case of Heraclius. The coin illustrations made out exceedingly well for half-tone cuts; it is a difficult proposition to get good results with some of these weakly cut Byzantine issued.

I suppose you have heard of Blegen's discoveries, and of Seager's death.

If you come East this summer, I shall be glad to have you look me up.

Very truly yours,

Secretary